

Zoölogy, and thus practically upon all of the material in this country available for study. "Somewhat to my surprise," says Mr. Ridgway, "the existence of a much greater number of clearly-defined forms than have been recognized by leading authorities soon became apparent; and a strict regard for the principles of geographical distribution and variation has left me no other resource than to describe a considerable number as new to science, even though by doing so the number of the latter exactly equals that of those which have hitherto been recognized as valid."

While he believes that more extensive collections, representing large areas in South America now practically unknown as regards this group, will considerably further increase the number of forms, it seems to him also probable "that more material will show that several of the forms now ranked as distinct species actually intergrade, thus being entitled only to trinomial instead of binomial appellations."

The range of the genus extends from southern Mexico southward to Bolivia, the Argentine Republic, and Paraguay. Of the 11 forms recognized by Mr. Ridgway the following are described as new: *Xiphocolaptes sclateri*, from southeastern Mexico; *X. emigrans costaricensis*, from Costa Rica; *X. virgatus*, habitat unknown; *X. ignotus*, from Ecuador; *X. cinnamomus*, from Eastern Brazil; *X. major castaneus*, from Bolivia. Four additional species are included as "not seen" by the author, the exact status of which seems more or less in doubt. Several of the new forms are based on single specimens, in one case without locality, and in others on examples obviously immature. In view of our ignorance, through the absence of adequate material, of the variations dependent on age, sex, and season among Dendrocolaptine birds, Mr. Ridgway appears to have taken a rather bold position in reference to the present group.—J. A. A.

Ridgway on the Genus *Sclerurus*.—The equally difficult genus *Sclerurus* has also recently passed under Mr. Ridgway's critical notice.* This genus has about the same geographical distribution as *Xiphocolaptes* and about the same number of forms, as determined by Mr. Ridgway, who recognizes, in the present paper, ten species of *Sclerurus*. Of these one (*S. lawrencei*, from "Bahia") is described as new, and a Maximilian name is revived for another, Wied's *Tinactor fuscus* being considered as in part (the female) referable to *S. umbretta* (Licht.), and in part (the male) to a new form, for which Wied's name is retained. Heretofore Wied's *Tinactor fuscus* has been synonymized with *S. umbretta* (Licht.). Mr. Ridgway gives the habitat of *S. fuscus* as "Upper Amazons," but there is apparently no good reason for supposing the locality of either of Wied's specimens to have been other than southeastern Brazil. In his MS. Catalogue the locality and source of both these specimens are given as "Brasilien, M. R." (= meine Reise).† The remarks made

* A Review of the Genus *Sclerurus* of Swainson. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. XII, 1889, pp. 21-31.

† Cf. Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. II, p. 242.

above respecting the meagreness of our knowledge of the variations in *Xiphocolaptes* depending upon age, sex, and season, apply with even greater emphasis to the present group, specimens of which are so hard to procure that no very large series of any form is as yet available for study.—J. A. A.

Ridgway on Birds from the Galapagos Islands, the Abolhos, the Island of Santa Lucia, and from the Straits of Magellan.—Mr. Ridgway has published two papers on the birds collected during the recent cruise of U. S. Fish Commission Steamer 'Albatross,' from New York around Cape Horn to San Francisco, California, the first* treating of the birds obtained at the Galapagos Islands. This collection is of special interest, as containing birds from two islands of this peculiarly interesting group from which no birds had previously been collected. Specimens of 47 species were obtained, including ten species not previously reported from the Galapagos Archipelago, eight of which are described as new. An annotated list of the species is given, followed by a tabular list of all the 69 species thus far found among these islands, showing their distribution among the different islands, with also special lists for each island, and the authorities on which their occurrence rests. The paper is thus an epitome of our present knowledge of the ornithology of this "classic ground."

A new genus, *Nesomimus* (type *Mimus melanotis* Gould), is provided for the peculiar Mimine birds of the Galapagos Islands, and the following new species are characterized: (1) *Nesomimus macdonaldi*, Hood Island; (2) *N. personatus*, Abingdon Island; (3) *Certhidea cinerascens*, Hood Island; (4) *Geospiza conirostris*, Hood Island; (5) *G. media*, Hood Island; (6) *Cactornis brevirostris*, Chatham Island; (7) *Camarhynchus townsendi*, Charles Island; (8) *C. pauper*, Charles Island; (9) *Pycilonctta galapagensis*, Charles Island. Two specimens of the rare *Creagrus furcatus* were obtained at Chatham Island, showing *Creagrus* to be, in Mr. Ridgway's opinion, one of the best characterized genera of the Larinae. A single specimen of *Sula gossi* was collected at Chatham Island, and a specimen of *Hæmatopus galapagensis* from James Island.

From the above showing, says Mr. Ridgway, it is evident "that the avifauna of the Galapagos Archipelago is by no means exhausted as a field of promising research in the problem of the 'derivative origin of species.' Future exploration will no doubt add new species and extend the range of those already known. The largest island of the group, Albemarle, is still almost untouched; . . . two islands (Wenman and Culpepper) have not been explored at all, while it can be safely said that on none of the islands has anything like a thorough investigation of the bird-fauna been made."

* Scientific Results of Explorations by the U. S. Fish Commission Steamer Albatross. No. I. Birds collected on the Galapagos Islands in 1888. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. XII, 1889, pp. 101-128.